

NERRS SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE TIDES MASTERS PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CALL FOR APPLICANTS

Looking for a Few Good Students

A new Masters program at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is looking for applicants to the new TIDES program, with classes beginning in late August, 2010.

TIDES (Training for the Integration of Decisions and Ecosystems Science) is an interdisciplinary program, designed to provide students with the skills to more effectively connect science to decision making...before, during and after the process of generating new knowledge.

We anticipate that successful applicants will have diverse backgrounds; some will come with work experience and undergraduate backgrounds in science and/or engineering while others will come from the humanities disciplines. Both kinds of applicants are welcome to apply!

The TIDES program is offering two fellowship positions, funded through a grant to the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative at UNH. Other interested students are encouraged to apply to the program, even if you are self-supported or supported under other programs.

Why is a Program Like TIDES Necessary?

At a time when our society faces critical questions about how we interact with our environment, too much excellent science goes unused by relevant decision and policy makers. Equally common, a lot of science is done in a way that satisfies the research community but doesn't satisfy the intended

users of the knowledge or the stakeholders in question (i.e., those people impacted by changes to the issue in question.)

As Jerry R. Schubel, President of the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, California, notes:

"As a nation, we need a cadre of people well educated and trained to formulate rich architectures of questions and to facilitate discussions to help guide researchers and policy makers through the swamps that surround many of the difficult environmental challenges we face in dealing with marine and estuarine ecosystems. The new TIDES program at UNH in collaboration with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System is positioned to make a significant contribution to meeting this need."

The TIDES Experience

What will two years in the TIDES program be like? TIDES is designed to build knowledge and skills through a combination of course work and a field-based internship at a Reserve in the *National Estuarine Research Reserve System*. (Visit www.nerrs.noaa.gov for more information.) The program requires 36 credits of graduate training and culminates in a non-thesis, project-based Master's degree.

Both the coursework and the field-based work at a Reserve will emphasize:

- Integrative science linking coastal, estuarine and watershed management

- Public participation in the generation of new knowledge and decision options

- Ecosystem-based and adaptive governance

- Facilitation of collaborative research group processes involving a variety of stakeholders

What Kind of Courses Will TIDES Students Take?

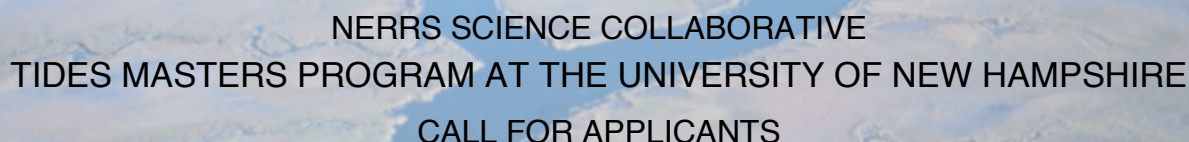
Depending on the courses taken by the applicant in the past, his/her advising committee may require a heavier emphasis in certain types of courses. In general, students will be required to take courses from the following areas:

- Coastal/Estuarine Ecology
- Approach to Research
- Statistics/Data Analysis
- Communicating Coastal Issues
- Resource Management
- Policy and Governance
- Facilitating Public Participation

What is the Timing of the Internships?

Most TIDES students will do one year of coursework before beginning their internships. Internships may be one or two semesters in duration, depending on the specific background of the students and available projects at the Reserves.





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What Will Students Do for Their Internships?

Through the Science Collaborative, a portion of the 27 Reserves will receive funding to address local coastal management problems, working together with intended users to define problems and design/implement suitable intervention strategies. These research projects will fall into one of four general subject matter categories:

- Impacts of Land Use Change
- Habitat Change and Restoration
- Estuarine Contamination
- Management of Stormwater & Non-point Source Pollution

TIDES students will spend their internship contributing to these research projects, helping to link new knowledge to decision making.

Interns will engage in work that directly contributes to coordination and facilitation of collaborative ecosystem research. They will provide input into how science projects and multi-stakeholder scientific discussions need to be structured and facilitated for maximum impact. Additionally, interns may organize, implement, and evaluate interactions between researchers and intended users.

How Will Students and Reserves be Matched?

It is anticipated that students will have approximately 10 projects (and corresponding Reserves) to choose from in terms of the internship. The TIDES program will work with Reserve System

personnel to ensure that the Reserve's needs and the student's skills/background are mutually suited to each other, and that both parties have similar and appropriate expectations of the student-Reserve interactions. Interviews between prospective students and Reserve staff will be an important part of the matching process.

How is TIDES Different from the GRF?

Some applicants who are familiar with the Reserve System may also be familiar with the System's

Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program. It is important to understand the distinction between the programs, which differ in two fundamental ways:

1) TIDES is a professional non-thesis Master's program aimed at building the specific skills necessary to coordinate collaborative research. In contrast, the GRF involves research within any one of a variety of relevant subjects, from the physical sciences to ecology to social sciences. 2) While GRFs generate the ideas for their work, TIDES students will work on projects that are driven by already funded project teams.

How Do I Apply?

Inquiries to the TIDES program should be made directly to UNH. Specifically...

Step 1: The UNH Department of Natural Resources and the Environment requires all students interested in the TIDES Masters degree to contact Dr. Mimi Larsen Becker, the faculty advisor for the program. Dr. Becker's contact information is:

Dr. Mimi Larsen Becker; 603-862-3950; e-mail: mimi.becker@unh.edu

Step 2: Apply through the UNH Graduate School. This step includes the submission of a standard application form, available through the Graduate School, relevant transcripts, and GRE scores as well as the modified recommendations and personal statement essays requested by the program. Also, please e-mail a copy of the application to Dr. Becker.

***Note that the web site for TIDES is currently under construction and is expected to be up and running by late March. For general information on Graduate Programs within the UNH Natural Resources and Environment Department, please go to:

<http://www.naturalresources.unh.edu/>

For information about the NERRS Science Collaborative, please go to:

<http://nerrs.noaa.gov/RCDefault.aspx?ID=364>

For any other questions about the program, deadlines, application procedures, etc., please contact Dr. Becker.

Important Dates

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| • April 14, 2010 | TIDES Applications with TIDES Fellowship Applications due. |
| • May 15, 2010 | Fellowship awards announced |
| • June 1, 2010 | Cut off for Applications for 2010 Fall term. |